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Security Council

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Letter dated 6 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Togo held the presidency of the Security Council for the month of February 2012. An assessment of the work of the Council has been prepared under my supervision in consultation with the other members of the Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kodjo **Menan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-50350 (E) 200912

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Annex to the letter dated 6 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Togo (February 2012)

Introduction

During the month of February 2012, under the presidency of Togo, the Security Council held 18 formal meetings (17 public and 1 private) and 12 closed consultations. The Council also adopted five resolutions (2035 (2012) of 17 February 2012 on the Sudan, 2036 (2012) of 22 February 2012 on Somalia, 2037 (2012) of 23 February 2012 on Timor-Leste, 2038 (2012) of 29 February 2012 on the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and 2039 (2012) of 29 February 2012 on peace consolidation in West Africa). One draft resolution (S/2012/77) concerning the situation in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic) was not adopted. Two presidential statements, S/PRST/2012/2 of 21 February 2012 on peace and security in Africa and S/PRST/2012/3 of 23 February 2012 on women and peace and security, were issued, along with three statements to the press, on 14 February 2012 on the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States of the Sudan, on 21 February 2012 on Yemen, and on 23 February 2012 on attacks against Israeli diplomatic personnel. The Secretary-General briefed the Council in closed consultations on 8 February upon his return from his visit to the Middle East and Addis Ababa.

The Security Council visited Haiti from 13 to 16 February 2012.

Africa

Sudan/South Sudan

On 8 February, the Secretary-General briefed the Council in closed consultations on the situation in the Sudan and South Sudan as part of the report on his visit to Addis Ababa. He commended the progress achieved in the Darfur peace process and welcomed the inauguration of the Darfur Regional Authority as a positive step towards peace in Darfur. He hoped that the Government of the Sudan would show the same willingness and make constructive steps to end the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States. He expressed his deep concern about the growing humanitarian crisis in the border States. He informed that the situation between the Sudan and South Sudan was complex and dangerous and stressed his concern about the lack of progress in negotiations on post-independence issues, and his concern that the hostile rhetoric from both sides could lead to military escalation. He was of the view that both Heads of State should display leadership and work for a solution that would ensure sustainable peace between the two countries. He also underlined the necessity to start the disarmament process and called for political and economic measures that would create confidence among communities and generate an environment conducive to the disarmament process in Jonglei State, South Sudan. Council members expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General for his focus on the situation and invited him to further commit himself. They called for a comprehensive approach to resolving the crisis.

The Council held consultations on the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) on 9 February following a presentation by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, on the deployment and activities of UNISFA. He informed the Council that there were serious violations of the Agreement of 20 June 2011, namely the operations of unauthorized troops in Abyei. Some members of the Council were of the view that pressure was to be put on the parties.

The Council held consultations on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan on 10 February after receiving briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, and the Chair of the Committee, Nestor Osorio, Permanent Representative of Colombia. The Council was briefed on the recent reported violations of the arms embargo, the various restrictions imposed on the Panel of Experts, the expiration of the mandate of the Panel and the attacks on the forces of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Subsequent discussions stressed the necessity to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts. The discussions were followed by the adoption on 17 February of resolution 2035 (2012), by which the Council extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts for one year.

On 10 February, the Council held consultations, which included a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan, following the fighting between different rebel groups and communities, including the situation of displaced persons, as well as on the impact of the cessation of South Sudanese oil production and export. The main conclusion was that both the Sudan and South Sudan should be encouraged to reactivate their discussions, and that the Government of South Sudan should be reminded of its primary responsibility to protect the population from inter-communal violence. On 27 February the Council held an informal interactive dialogue on the Sudan and South Sudan. Briefings were given by the Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, Thabo Mbeki; the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Haile Menkerios (by videoconference); and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous. The cessation of oil production and export was discussed, as was the question of the political will of both countries to resolve the problem and coexist peacefully. Again, the Council called for pressure on both countries and expressed its support to the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and the Special Representative.

On 29 February, the Council held consultations and heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who described the tense situation between the Sudan and South Sudan, and each side's suspicions that the other was supporting rebel groups.

Somalia

The Council held consultations on 6 February following presentations by the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Susanna Malcorra, and the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on the progress made with regard to the security situation in Somalia, and the need for a new concept of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) with the aim of strengthening its capacity.

On 8 February, the Secretary-General briefed the Council in closed consultations on the situation in Somalia within the framework of his report on his visit to Addis

Ababa. He commended the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM. He stressed the importance of the role of AMISOM as well as the necessity to strengthen its capacity and in this regard he expected the London Conference of 23 February 2012 to send a strong signal of international support. The members of the Council supported the idea of strengthening AMISOM. On 22 February, the Council adopted resolution 2036 (2012), by which it endorsed the new concept of AMISOM. The Council decided, on an exceptional basis and owing to the unique character of AMISOM, to expand the logistical support package for the Mission to include the reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment including force enablers and multipliers. Concretely, and among other things, the United Nations logistical support package for AMISOM was extended for a maximum of 17,731 uniformed personnel and 20 AMISOM civilian personnel until 31 October 2012; it included enhanced logistical support and provisions for an aviation component of AMISOM.

On the same day, during a public debate, the Council discussed the report of the Secretary-General concerning piracy off the coast of Somalia (S/2012/50), which was presented by the Legal Counsel, Patricia O'Brien; the Council was also briefed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov. The report examined the issue of the establishment of specialized anti-piracy courts in Somalia and other States in the region with substantial international participation and/or support, as well as building the judicial and prison capacity in Somalia and other States in the region, and contained detailed implementation proposals in this regard. A view was expressed by some members of the Council that the situation with regard to piracy prosecutions called for additional measures to ensure that pirates were held accountable through the due process of law in accordance with international standards. Several speakers also stressed the importance of developing a comprehensive strategy addressing the root causes of piracy and armed robbery at sea.

Libya

The Council was briefed on 29 February on the overall situation in Libya by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Ian Martin, and the Permanent Representative of Portugal, José Filipe Moraes Cabral, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011). Ambassador Moraes Cabral briefed the Council on the work of the Committee for the period from 23 December 2011 to 29 February 2012. He described, among other things, the work of the Committee with regard to requests from States concerning the freezing of assets of entities that were in fact not subject to that measure. The Council held subsequent consultations on the situation in Libya.

Peace and security in Africa: Mali and the Sahel

On 10 February, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs as part of the "horizon scanning". The Council was informed that an armed group allegedly affiliated to the Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad (MNLA), and composed mainly of Touaregs, was seeking the independence of northern Mali. The briefing stressed the risk of escalation resulting in an ethnic conflict. During the discussions of the root causes of the crisis, some Council members mentioned the impact of the proliferation of arms due to the situation in

Libya and the return of Touareg combatants. The Council stressed the need to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in Mali in a more holistic manner while paying due regard to the emerging terrorist threat.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Council held consultations on 7 February after receiving a report on the activities of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MONUSCO, Roger Meece, and followed by a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. During the discussions, three conclusions were arrived at: first, lessons should be drawn from the presidential elections of 28 November 2011 in order to improve the organization of further elections; secondly, the cooperation between the Government, MONUSCO and other United Nations missions should be improved upon in order to counter the activities of armed groups; and, thirdly, the operational capacity of MONUSCO should be reinforced through the provision of helicopters.

Senegal

On 10 February 2012, as part of the "horizon scanning", the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the pre-election violence against the candidacy of then incumbent President of Senegal, Abdoulaye Wade. The Council deplored the situation and requested a transparent and violence-free election.

Guinea-Bissau

On 10 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council as part of the "horizon scanning", after which the Council held consultations. It was noted that following the death of the President of Guinea-Bissau, Malam Bacai Sanha, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau and the National Electoral Commission had cooperated in organizing elections scheduled for 18 March 2012. The Under-Secretary-General invited States to make financial contributions to fund the elections. The Council expressed regret that implementation of a long-delayed pension fund to demobilize members of the military of Guinea-Bissau had not progressed. The Council called for the signing of the agreement planned in that regard between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East

The Council considered a draft resolution (S/2012/77) on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic proposed by Morocco, on behalf of a number of co-sponsors, and based on the League of Arab States plan of 22 January 2012. The draft resolution was put to the vote on 4 February, but was not adopted owing to the negative votes of China and the Russian Federation.

On 8 February, the Secretary-General briefed the Council in closed consultations on his visit to the Middle East and addressed the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretary-General expressed his regret that the Council was unable to

reach agreement. He urged the Syrian Government to immediately stop the killings and said that such violence was unacceptable before humanity and must be investigated. He urged an end to all violence and for parties to work towards a political solution to the crisis. He further informed the Council of his exchange with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Nabil al-Araby, on the eventual return of the League's observer mission to the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the option of sending a League of Arab States-United Nations observer mission or appointing a joint special envoy. During the discussions, States with influence over both Government and opposition groups were called upon to play their role. The majority of the members of the Council endorsed the idea of an observer mission and sought further details in regard to its possible mandate. Some Council members expressed their wish for dialogue between the Government and the opposition, building on the new developments in the field without military intervention. Some Council members noted that the Syrian Government was not upholding its commitments.

On 10 February, during the "horizon-scanning" meeting with the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, some Council members commented on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and expressed their concern, noting that over the past weeks many civilians had been killed, and requested an update on the situation. A Council member objected to the raising of the Syrian issue during a meeting meant only for addressing issues on the horizon, and suggested that a meeting with the appropriate format be called for to discuss the Syrian situation. Some Council members were of the view that, even if the format of the meeting was not appropriate, the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic should be brought to discussion before the Council as urgently as possible, taking into account the worsening situation.

On 28 February, the Council held consultations on the situation in the Middle East following a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who, inter alia, described the deterioration of the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and denounced the Syrian Government's failure to fulfil its responsibility to protect the population. According to the Under-Secretary-General, the international community was failing to assume its duty to stop the killing and silence the guns. He informed the Council that the Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator would travel to the Syrian Arab Republic in order to negotiate a pause in fighting to enable humanitarian assistance to be delivered. He informed the Council of the arrival in New York of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to Syria, Kofi Annan, appointed on 23 February 2012, to meet with the Secretary-General.

Yemen

On 28 February, within the framework of the analysis of the situation in the Middle East, the Council held consultations following a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who welcomed the progress on Yemen's political transition. He reported that presidential elections with a consensus candidate were held on 21 February. He indicated, however, that the transition remained very delicate and would require ongoing facilitation.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 8 February, the Secretary-General briefed the Council in closed consultations on his visit to the Middle East and, among other things, the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. He commended King Abdullah of Jordan for hosting talks between the parties. He informed the Council that he had urged the parties to remain engaged and take confidence-building steps, including the submission of comprehensive proposals on territory and security to create an environment conducive to negotiations, which was the only viable option for a lasting two-State solution. He noted the recent Fatah-Hamas agreement, on reconciliation, and said he believed that the two tracks — reconciliation and negotiations with Israel — were not mutually exclusive. He informed the Council that the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, had told him that any Palestinian unity government would abide by previous commitments. He stressed that while in the West Bank he had noticed concrete signs of institutional development fundamental for the functioning of a future State, the situation in Gaza was unsustainable. He also mentioned the situation of Palestinian prisoners. Some Council members called upon Israel to remove impediments to peace negotiations so as not to compromise a final and peaceful solution, including accepting discussions of the issue of Palestinian prisoners and their inspection by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Secretary-General condemned the rockets fired from Gaza into southern Israel the night before his arrival in the region.

On 28 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the situation between Palestine and Israel. He said that talks between the parties that started on 3 January in Amman had stalled. He reiterated that the framework set on 23 September 2011 by the Quartet remained relevant. He mentioned the Palestinian requirements for restarting the negotiations. He noted the agreement between the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, and the leader of the Hamas Movement, Kahled Meshaal, to form a transitional government to be led by Mr. Abbas. The Under-Secretary-General reaffirmed that the United Nations supports Palestinian unity within the framework of the commitments of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Quartet principles, and the Arab Peace Initiative. He reiterated that the United Nations condemns indiscriminate rocket fire on Israel.

Lebanon

On 8 February, the Secretary-General briefed the Council in closed consultations concerning his visit to Beirut, as part of his trip to the Middle East. He informed Council members that he discussed, among other things, the extension of the mandate of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. He expressed his intent to extend the mandate of the Tribunal for three more years. This was supported by Council members.

On 28 February, during his briefing on the Middle East, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs informed the Council that on 23 February the Secretary-General had renewed the mandate of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon for three more years effective 1 March 2012. He stressed that the Syrian crisis remained a source of tension in Lebanon and stated that the situation along the border remained a concern. He said that the United Nations continued to monitor the influx of Syrian refugees into Lebanon. He added that the zone of operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was calm, but noted continued air space violations by the Israeli air force.

Non-proliferation (Islamic Republic of Iran)

On 8 February, during his briefing to the Council on his visit to the Middle East, the Secretary-General addressed the issue of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He pointed out that there was great concern about the Iranian nuclear programme. He called upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate and directly address issues raised by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iraq

On 10 February, during the "horizon-scanning" briefing, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs addressed the question of Camp Ashraf and the role played by the United Nations for its closure. He informed the Council that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Martin Kobler, was making every effort to ensure a voluntary, non-coercive and peaceful relocation of Camp Ashraf residents to Camp Liberty, as a first step towards their resettlement in third countries.

Asia

Timor-Leste

During a public meeting and debate on 22 February, the Council received a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), Ameerah Haq. The meeting was attended by the President of Timor-Leste, José Ramos-Horta. The Special Representative described United Nations and Government of Timor-Leste efforts to implement the Joint Transition Plan, including efforts to transfer UNMIT functions to other actors in preparation for the Mission's expected withdrawal at the end of 2012. She described UNMIT efforts to support the implementation of the Joint Development Plan of the Timor-Leste National Police, but noted that there were still some difficulties in obtaining the extension of the deployment of some key police officers. On 23 February, the Council adopted resolution 2037 (2012), by which it extended the mandate of UNMIT until 31 December 2012.

Maldives

On 10 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council, followed by consultations during his monthly "horizon scanning". He provided an overview of events surrounding the resignation of the President of Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed, and the transfer of power to the Vice-President, Mohamed Waheed Hassan. He reported that President Nasheed alleged that he had been overthrown with the complicity of the army. The Under-Secretary-General said the United Nations expected the Maldivian authorities to ensure the personal safety of President Nasheed and his family.

Americas

Haiti

Subsequent to the mission of the members of the Security Council to Haiti from 13 to 16 February 2012, briefings were held on 22 and 28 February 2012.

Europe

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

The Council was briefed during a debate on 8 February on the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Vuk Jeremic, and Enver Hoxhaj of Kosovo also briefed the Council. The Assistant Secretary-General noted that, while the situation was slightly improved, it was still fragile. Consequently, both Kosovo and Serbia were called upon to engage in a frank dialogue to create a sustainable peace and security in the region.

Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

On 9 February, the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, Eamon Gilmore, briefed the Council. After a presentation of the scope of the OSCE mandate, he elaborated on the issues which would constitute OSCE priorities for 2012 such as Internet freedom, freedom of association and assembly, freedom of religion, trafficking in human beings, racism and intolerance in sport, observation of elections, conflict prevention, arms control, the fight against complex transnational threats and the promotion of good governance. Council members widely welcome the work and experience of OSCE and underlined the need to share that experience with similar entities in other parts of the world.

Thematic issues

On 8 February, the Secretary-General briefed the Council on his visit to Addis Ababa for the African Union Summit. He informed Council members that he had held a series of wide-ranging bilateral meetings on various peace and security concerns, including emerging transnational challenges in West Africa and Central Africa such as terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, the rise of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea and the impact of the Libyan crisis on the Sahel. He reiterated the commitment of the United Nations to work closely with the African Union and the continent's subregional organizations.

On 10 February, the Council held consultations on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), relating to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In his capacity as Chair of the Committee, the Permanent Representative of Portugal, José Filipe Moraes Cabral, presented the regular 90-day report on the work of the Committee. Some members of the Council were of the view that the Committee should be more dynamic. The Council members voiced support for the full implementation of resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009). There was no consensus on the issuance of the final report of the Panel of Experts.

On 21 February, the Council held a public debate on peace and security in Africa which focused on the topic "the impact of transnational organized crime on peace, security and stability in West Africa and the Sahel region". About 40 delegations participated in the debate, conducted under the leadership of the President of Togo, Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime noted that cocaine trafficking through

West Africa and Central Africa generated about $900 million per year. He emphasized the need to support and strengthen local institutions and encourage partnerships between States and regional organizations. He stressed that transnational organized crime, as a growing international threat, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel region, contributed to undermining governance, social and economic development and stability, creating difficulties for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, while threatening to reverse peacebuilding advances in the region. The Secretary-General emphasized that transnational organized crimes constituted serious threats to peace and security and as such should be an integral part of conflict prevention and management strategies. Statements were also made by the members of the Security Council, the representatives of the African Union Commission for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, the European Union and a dozen other Member States. The Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/2) at the meeting, in which it stressed that the growing international threats posed by transnational organized crime, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel region, contributed to undermining governance, social and economic development and stability, and creating difficulties for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, while threatening to reverse peacebuilding advances in the region. The Council expressed strong concern about the increasing violence perpetrated by armed groups in the region, which had been exacerbated by the proliferation of weapons, from within and outside the region, that threaten peace, security and stability of States. The Council acknowledged the importance of system-wide United Nations action, in order to offer coherent and coordinated responses to transnational threats, including through the use of best practices and exchange of positive experiences from relevant initiatives in other regions of the world. The Council commended the States and leaders of West Africa and the Sahel region for the important initiatives and measures they had adopted, at national and regional levels, to tackle the threat of organized crime in their region. The Council stressed the importance of implementing relevant international agreements, and of strengthening international, regional and transregional cooperation including capacity-building in justice and security institutions in order to investigate and prosecute, as appropriate, persons and entities responsible for these crimes.

On 23 February, the Council held a public debate on the item entitled "Women and peace and security", following briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström; the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; and the representative of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Amina Megheirbi. The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/3), in which it expressed its deep concern about incidents, trends, and patterns of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, including the deliberate targeting of civilians for sexual violence, inter alia, for political motivations, and its use as a tactic of war. It stressed the importance of prevention, early warning, and effective response to sexual violence when it is used as a tactic of war or as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations. The Council urged all parties to conflict to comply fully with their obligations under applicable international law, including the prohibition of all forms of sexual violence. The Council reiterated that the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern committed against women and girls had been strengthened through the work of the International Criminal Court, ad hoc and mixed tribunals, as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals. The Council encouraged Member States and the

United Nations system to continue raising awareness of the impact that sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations had on victims, families, communities and societies. The Council also reiterated the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict and in peacebuilding.

On 27 February, the Council held a public meeting on peace consolidation in West Africa, focusing on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, having before it the report prepared by the Secretary-General and based on the outcome of the assessment mission to that region, which was aimed at designing national and regional responses to the threat of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea (see S/2012/45). The debate involved among other persons the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; the Special Representative of the Chairman of the ECOWAS Commission, Abdel Fatau Musah; the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission, Florentina Adénike Ukonga; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo, Eliott Ohin; and the Minister of State in charge of National Defence of Benin, Issifou Kogui N'Douro. The Under-Secretary-General stressed that piracy and armed robbery at sea had become a more alarming threat which required the putting in place of an integrated regional strategy to be implemented by national maritime forces, with international support. The other speakers echoed his remarks and commended the regional initiatives establishing joint regional patrols in fighting piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea. The members of the Council stressed the primary responsibility of the States of the Gulf of Guinea to counter piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea and in this context urged them through the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission to work towards the convening of the planned joint summit of Gulf of Guinea States to develop a regional anti-piracy strategy, in cooperation with the African Union. It was agreed that the United Nations should play a coordinating role in these efforts and assist ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission in convening a summit of Heads of State of the Gulf of Guinea in order to mobilize the resources needed to implement such an integrated plan against piracy and armed robbery at sea. On 29 February the Council adopted resolution 2039 (2012), in which it encouraged national authorities, as well as regional and international partners, to consider implementing the recommendations of the assessment mission, as appropriate. It urged States of the region of the Gulf of Guinea to take prompt action, at national and regional levels with the support of the international community where able, and by mutual agreement, to develop and implement national maritime security strategies, including for the establishment of a legal framework for the prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea, as well as prosecution of persons engaging in those crimes and punishment of those convicted of those crimes, and encouraged regional cooperation in this regard. The Council encouraged Benin and Nigeria to extend their joint patrols beyond March 2012, while the countries of the Gulf of Guinea continued to work towards building their capacities to independently secure their coastlines, and also encouraged international partners to consider providing support, as needed, in that regard and to the extent feasible.

On 29 February, the Council adopted resolution 2038 (2012), by which it decided to appoint Hassan Bubacar Jallow as Prosecutor of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, with effect from 1 March 2012, for a term of four years.

Other matters

Security Council missions

On 28 February, the Council held consultations on its field missions to be undertaken in the year 2012. The following destinations were proposed: Afghanistan, Palestine, Timor-Leste, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Kosovo/Serbia and Libya/Cairo. There were different views on the need to visit these places. Some Council members supported, in principle, a mission to West Africa. Some members of the Council expressed the opinion that there should be no other missions until the Council decided to accept the invitation of the Palestinian Authority.